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Special Edition - Fall 2020 Parent Meeting Summary

Special Parent Meeting Edition

The purpose of this newsletter is to summarize what was covered at the Parent Meetings for those who were unable to attend. At the end we will include FAQ's from both meetings.

Trudi Jackson, Executive Director opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions of BYSO Staff and Board and she explained the various roles.

BYSO consists of two directors, Trudi Jackson and Dr. Teresa Metzger-Howe. Trudi oversees the day-to-day operations, manages the office staff, the budget and works closely with community partners. Teresa manages the music program, the music staff and conducts the Youth Symphony. Trudi and Teresa report to a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of 10 members. President Kristi Jo Lynn spoke of her role, her passion for BYSO, music, and service as well as introduced other board members, who also spoke of their commitment and what BYSO has meant to their families. You can find more information about our staff and board on our website.

<https://www.byso.org/about/administrative-staff/>

<https://www.byso.org/about/staff/>

<https://www.byso.org/board-of-directors/>

If you are passionate about music, service, education and would like to learn more about board service, please email info@byso.org to learn more.

Development Manager and Cadet violin coach Caroline Faflak thanked all the families who in the spring donated their tuition and/or season tickets back to the program. This is what kept us going when there was so much unknown and it meant a lot to all of us. She then spoke about fundraising and our Fall Campaign, Pass the Hat. Tuition only covers 60 – 65% of our operating budget and this year, even with everything being online, there are unforeseen costs such as new technology, licenses, etc... To continue to keep tuition low and to be able to offer scholarships, we ask each family to participate in Pass the Hat. Our Goal this year is \$6500 and if each family contributed \$75, we would reach our goal. There are many ways to give – through our website, you can add it to your tuition, many workplaces like Microsoft, Google,

Boeing, offer matches and you can give directly through them. You can set up a monthly donation of \$10 or more or even a one-time \$10 donation would be so helpful and appreciated. Your support means so much to us. <https://www.byso.org/support/donate/>
<https://www.byso.org/product/donate-to-pass-the-hat/>

Volunteer Coordinator and Office Admin (and former BYSO flute parent), Brook Rose covered administrative topics including the fact that we are all working from home and the only fulltime employee is Trudi. When emailing, please include the students first and last name – both legal and preferred names are helpful if that applies.

There is a lot of helpful information on the [website](#), including information on ensembles, tuition, volunteering, supporting BYSO and the weekly [newsletter](#). Please take some time to go through our website and become familiar with it. BYSO is also on social media – [FB](#), [IG](#) and [YouTube](#) and we have a [FB Parent Group](#) that Brook Manages. There is a weekly newsletter that goes to all the emails we have on file. Sometimes our emails end up in Junk or get blocked so please check your Junk/Spam, Social and Promotions folders and add info@byso.org and admin@byso.org to your address book to help eliminate this issue. You can also mark the newsletter as Safe/Not Junk to help. We have a Household email for each family that is considered our MAIN email for communication. We recommend this be a parent and not a student email. We can only have one main email address.

Regarding volunteering, in a normal year, we rely on hundreds of volunteers – everything from audition to rehearsal to concert volunteers to office to summer interns. This fall we only have one job and that will be a Virtual Rehearsal Admin. This person will need to be Zoom tech savvy, be comfortable taking attendance and answering questions/helping with tech issues. Volunteers will need to log into the class 15 minutes before the start of class and stay at least 15 minutes once class starts, in case there are late comers or tech issues. Volunteers are welcome to stay the entire class if they like, but it is not necessary. This job can be for a tech savvy teen who is comfortable with the description or a parent. And students will receive community service hours. You can sign up for the entire quarter or just a Monday that works for you. All opportunities will be posted by Friday, 10/2.

<https://www.byso.org/support/tasks/>

<https://www.byso.org/support/volunteer-signup/>

Throughout the meeting we were addressing questions that were being entered in the Chat and we spent the last 20 minutes or so answering questions. Frequently Asked Questions/Answers from both meetings are included below.

When does BYSO meet?

BYSO rehearsals are on Monday evenings, they are all virtual this quarter and will be between 6pm and 9pm. There are various start and stop times depending on the group. The earliest ensembles start at 6:00pm and our latest start at 7:45, with times all in-between. The various small ensembles have anywhere from 7 – 15 students, allowing for individual attention and time for everyone to get to know one another. All ensembles are based on where they placed in their audition, for example Cadet Strings or Premiere/Sinfonia Wind Ensemble.

There is ONE full online orchestra that will be mixed levels. This full orchestra ensemble will focus a lot on the technical aspects of playing virtually, including playing to a click-track and recording.

There will be no retreats this quarter.

Travel plans have been placed on hold.

There will be no live concerts this quarter.

When will we be back in-person?

There are many factors that will determine when we can be in-person again. We will be monitoring the situation throughout the year.

Can my student be placed on-leave and come back when we are in-person?

Yes, any student can take a leave when necessary without penalty. Please let us know as soon as possible so we can make that adjustment. As a general policy, we try to support the whole child and we realize students have commitments outside of music. We have several students who only participate one or two quarters a year.

How is BYSO structured?

BYSO has three quarters in a year and Summer Camp. In a normal year you sign up for the whole year (all three quarters) and pay the full year tuition. This year, because there is so much unknown, we are taking things quarter by quarter. The quarters are:

Fall, Winter and Spring.

In a typical year, each quarter ends with a concert. This year, there will be no typical, in-person concerts. We have included all the fall quarter ensembles in the link below.

<https://www.byso.org/ensembles/fall-2020-online-offerings/>

This year, instead of full orchestras there will be small ensembles at all levels. For an understanding of the various levels, you can check out our website. <https://www.byso.org/> then choose Ensembles.

We have included an option for a Premiere level flute group and flutes at the Flute Choir or Flute Orchestra levels can choose to participate in a Wind Ensemble instead of their flute group.

Will there be Winter auditions?

Yes, there will be winter auditions. That information will be out once we have this quarter settled. We recommend students audition in the fall as opposed to the winter, even if they are going to participate later on.

<https://www.byso.org/enrollment/auditions/>

What is tuition and how can we pay?

Tuition amounts are all listed on the website and you can pay online or send in a check to our PO box. Tuition is due no later than October 18th. Please do not pay your tuition until you have received your small ensemble assignment – for example, Debut Strings Green.

<https://www.byso.org/bysoshop/>

Thank you everyone who attended and who are reading this newsletter. Here's to a great year!

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